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Administrator will report on regional efforts to hold down power rates

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Bonneville Power Administration

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CONTACTS: [Ed Mosey](#) or [Mike Hansen](#), BPA (503) 230-5131

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration will report Wednesday on regional efforts to reduce electricity demand and hold down a wholesale rate increase scheduled for Oct. 1. BPA Acting Administrator Steve Wright will conduct a media briefing beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the BPA Headquarters first-floor conference room.

BPA and the region's utilities and industries have been pursuing a plan to keep the upcoming wholesale rate increase below 100 percent. Economic growth, increases in energy consumption and a lack of new generating resources have left the region short of energy. BPA, which supplies about 46 percent of the total electricity used in the Northwest, does not have sufficient supply to meet all the load brought to it by its customers.

This shortage has forced BPA into the market to purchase power for the next five years. Sky-high prices there could drive the wholesale rate up 250 percent or more. In order to avoid this, BPA has called on its customers to reduce their take from BPA by at least 10 percent. Commitments are due by June 22.

BPA must submit a final rate adjustment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by the end of June. The status report Wednesday will tell utilities and industries how much further they must reduce their take from BPA to avoid a triple-digit rate increase. See the BPA Web site "Media Center" for more information.

Telephone access is available to reporters at (800) 442-5794, passcode: 77841

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